

From: [Bowman, Liz](#)
To: [Gray, David](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#)
Subject: RE: Superfund
Date: Saturday, September 2, 2017 3:19:47 PM

Edit the version I sent you...and moving forward, please don't send Ryan anything until it is 100 percent final and fully vetted. Once he gets it, he sends it to the White House, and we can't be constantly updating versions/drafts.

From: Gray, David
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

It is incorrect

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

Great, thanks – this is the current version. David, can you blast this out through your list?

The AP story is not only inaccurate, its flat wrong. The facts are that EPA and TCEQ are working together, along with other local, state, and federal responders around the clock to address the human health and environmental effects of Hurricane Harvey. With regard to Superfund sites:

EPA has conducted initial assessments at 33 Superfund sites in the impacted areas using aerial images, as well as direct contact with parties responsible for on-going cleanup activities. EPA has determined that 28 Superfund sites in the area do not show damage or excessive flooding associated with the storm. EPA determined that five sites have been flooded and/or are experiencing possible damage from the storm. Of these sites, two (Falcon Refinery Site and the Brine Service site) have been inspected by authorities and determined not to require emergency cleanup, although additional sampling in the area will be conducted. Three sites, including: U.S. Oil Recovery, Patrick Bayou and San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site have not been accessible by response personnel. However – teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites as soon flood waters recede further, and personnel are able to safely access the sites. San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material and the cap will be inspected as soon as it is safe for teams to do so. Based on forecasted river conditions, this inspection by boat is planned for Monday. EPA has dive teams to survey the cap

underwater when conditions allow.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2017 4:13 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

Liz .. david's folks can send it out and post it ... I have julia's schedule and she may be out of pocket.

David's folks sent last night's statement.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Cc: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

UPDATED and proofread...I am posting this on Twitter, and asking Julia to send it out via press release.

The AP story is not only inaccurate, its flat wrong. The facts are that EPA and TCEQ are working together, along with other local, state, and federal responders around the clock to address the human health and environmental effects of Hurricane Harvey. With regard to Superfund sites:

EPA has conducted initial assessments at 33 Superfund sites in the impacted areas using aerial images, as well as direct contact with parties responsible for on-going

cleanup activities. EPA has determined that 28 Superfund sites in the area do not show damage or excessive flooding associated with the storm. EPA determined that five sites have been flooded and/or are experiencing possible damage from the storm. Of these sites, two (Falcon Refinery Site and the Brine Service site) have been inspected by authorities and determined not to require emergency cleanup, although additional sampling in the area will be conducted. Three sites, including: U.S. Oil Recovery, Patrick Bayou and San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site have not been accessible by response personnel. However – teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites as soon flood waters recede further, and personnel are able to safely access the sites. San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material and the cap will be inspected as soon as it is safe for teams to do so. Based on forecasted river conditions, this inspection by boat is planned for Monday. EPA has dive teams to survey the cap underwater when conditions allow.

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2017 3:57 PM

To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Superfund

NICE!!

conveyed to the WH. Let's blast this out.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-6999

On Sep 2, 2017, at 3:51 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Start with this

EPA has conducted initial assessments at thirty-three Superfund sites in the impacted areas using aerial images as well as direct contact with companies who are responsible for on-going cleanup activities. EPA has determined that twenty-eight Superfund sites in the area do not show damage or excessing flooding associated with the storm. EPA determined that seven sites have been flooded and/or possible damaged by the storm. Of these sites, two have been inspected and determined not to require emergency cleanup although additional sampling in the area will be conducted. Five sites including San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site have not been accessible by response personnel. However – teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites when flood waters recede further. San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material and the cap will be inspected as soon as it is safe for teams to do so. Based on forecasted river conditions, this inspection by boat is planned for Monday. EPA has dive teams to survey the cap underwater when conditions allow.

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 2:38 PM

To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Superfund

I need this translated. It is not clear on this what information is being conveyed.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-6999

On Sep 2, 2017, at 3:32 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Here is the status of work at each Superfund site within the impacted area. We are working on a summary statement.

From: Jackson, Ryan

Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 2:21 PM

To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Superfund

However superfund is the priority. The WH is asking for it now. I'm sure they are responding to questions.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA

(202) 564-6999

On Sep 2, 2017, at 3:09 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Got it

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 2, 2017, at 3:02 PM, Bowman, Liz
<[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Below is the exchange that spurred the AP story today saying that “no EPA personnel were on scene” at these Superfunds. Now, this reporter is manufacturing this in way that doesn’t do justice to the hard-working folks on the ground who have been working around the clock ...but we need to get ahead of this and the next story, which will likely be about how we are testing water quality for drinking and waste water systems. Can you guys get your teams to pull together a list of each superfund site in the area (30-33?) and the status report for each site? We just need a bullet or a sentence for each site.

Separately, we need to get some information about exactly what we are doing, when and how, with regard to water testing in Houston. I am copying the Water folks here, so they can also assist with this information.

I am working on a draft statement now using the most recent EOC report; **but, please send us additional details on specific Superfund sites and water testing details as soon as possible – with the next few hours, so we can work that into our statement.**

I am going to connect with TCEQ so they

know that we are working on this statement also.

Thank you for your help and assistance, especially on a Holiday weekend -- Liz

From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2017 2:51 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Superfund

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Graham, Amy"
<graham.amy@epa.gov>
Date: September 1, 2017 at
1:53:27 PM EDT
To: "Biesecker, Michael"
<MBiesecker@ap.org>, "StClair,
Christie"
<StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>,
"Gray, David"
<gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

That's correct. We will begin to assess other sites after flood waters recede in those areas.

From: Biesecker, Michael
[<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017
1:09 PM
To: Graham, Amy
<graham.amy@epa.gov>; StClair,
Christie
<StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Gray,
David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund

When does EPA expect it will be able to visit and assess flooded sites in Houston and Port Arthur? After the floodwaters waters recede?

From: Graham, Amy
[<mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael; StClair, Christie
Cc: Press; Gray, David
Subject: RE: Superfund

Michael - Unified Command personnel inspected two Superfund sites in the Corpus Christi area yesterday. Both the Falcon Refinery Site and the Brine Service Site show no significant damage. No emergency clean up response for storm damage is needed at the two sites.

From: Biesecker, Michael
[<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 12:14 PM
To: StClair, Christie
<StClair.Christie@epa.gov>;
Graham, Amy
<graham.amy@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund

Christie, Amy,

Following up from earlier in the week, AP is still seeking details on what EPA is doing regarding flooded Superfund sites. EPA's press release on Wednesday said EPA is "assesses conditions at the NPL Superfund sites in the storm's

impact area” and was “began rapid assessments at two sites that are accessible after floodwaters have receded and this work will continue.”

Which sites were those? What did EPA find? Did EPA take samples to determine whether contaminants leached out into floodwaters? Were more sites visited and assessed on Thursday? How many people has EPA assigned to this work?

I will add that AP has visited three Houston-area superfund sites yesterday. All were still heavily flooded and we saw no state or federal personnel there (or anyone else). We are visiting and documenting more sites today.

Michael

<image001.jpg> <image001.jpg>

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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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<Hurricane Harvey rapid response and inspection sheet 9-2-17.xlsx>